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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/48/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 9 December 1992, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/49, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia", paragraphs 1 to 6 of which read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> " ...
>
> "1. Reaffirms its endorsement, in principle of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
>
> "2. Urges once again the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to that objective;
>
> "3. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States that have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary cooperation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
>
> "4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
>
> "5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;
>
> "6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled 'Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia'."

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submits herewith the reply received thus far. Any additional replies related to this item will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[6 May 1993]

1. The United Kingdom remains in support of this resolution and of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia.

2. The United Kingdom believes that nuclear-weapon-free zones can make a valuable contribution to regional security, non-proliferation and disarmament provided that the following conditions prevail:

(a) Nuclear weapons do not already feature in the security of the region in question;

(b) The regional States are prepared to participate on the basis of agreements freely entered into;

(c) In creating the zone, the partners recognize general principles of international law and behaviour;

(d) The balance of security in the region is maintained.